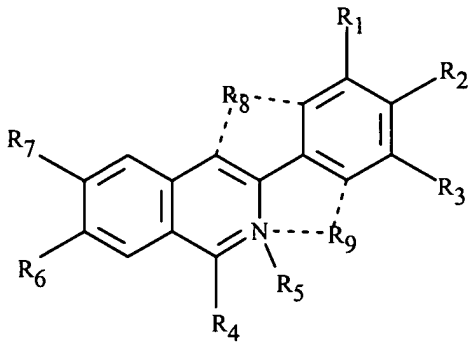
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22.(AMENDED) A therapeutic method to inhibit cancer cell growth comprising administering to a mammal afflicted with cancer an amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_6 and R_7 are independently H, OH, or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkoxy; R_2 and R_3 together are $-OCH_2O-$; [R_1 and R_2 together are $-OCH_2O-$;] or R_6 and R_7 together are $-OCH_2O-$;

R_4 is H or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl;

R_5 is [H, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl or is] absent; [and]

R_8 is absent; and

[R_8 and]R_9 [are independently] is -CH=CH-[,] or $-(CH_2)_2$-; [or are absent;

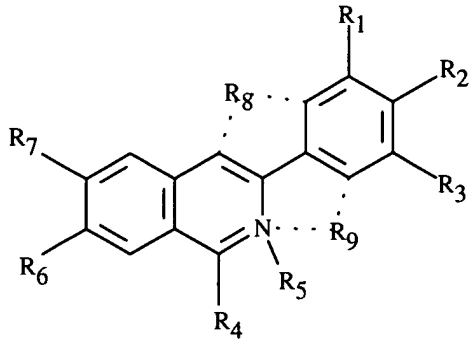
provided that

when R_8 is -CH=CH- or $-(CH)_2$-, R_9 is absent and R_3 is H; and

when R_9 is -CH=CH- or $-(CH_2)_2$-,] provided that R_1 or R_2 is H[, and R_5 and R_8 are absent];

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

34.(AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_6 and R_7 are independently H, OH, or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkoxy; R_2 and R_3 together are $-OCH_2O-$; [R_1 and R_2 together are $-OCH_2O-$;]or R_6 and R_7 together are $-OCH_2O-$;

R_4 is H or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl;

R_5 is [H, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl or is] absent; [and]

R_8 is absent; and

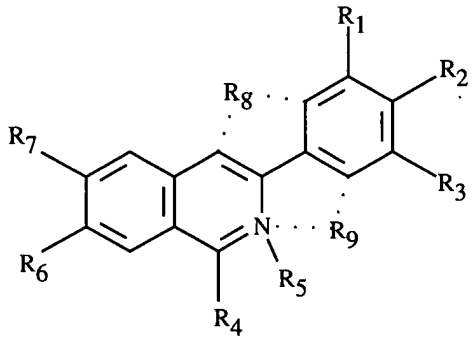
[R_8 and] R_9 [are independently] is -CH=CH-[,] or $-(CH_2)_2$-; [or are absent;

provided that

when R_8 is -CH=CH- or $-(CH)_2-$, R_9 is absent and R_3 is H; and

when R_9 is -CH=CH- or $-(CH_2)_2$-,] provided that R_1 or R_2 is H[, and R_5 and R_8 are absent]; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

45.(NEW) A therapeutic method to inhibit cancer cell growth comprising administering to a mammal afflicted with cancer an amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_6 and R_7 are independently H, OH, or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkoxy; R_2 and R_3 together are $-OCH_2O-$; or R_6 and R_7 together are $-OCH_2O-$;

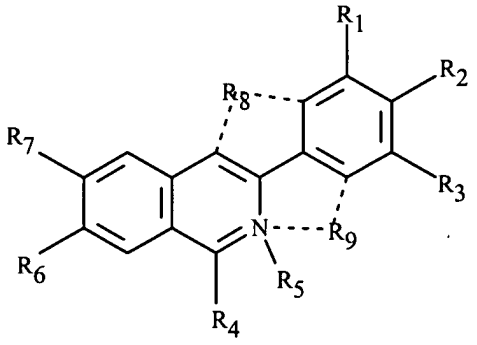
R_4 is H or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl;

R_5 is absent;

R_8 is absent; and

R_9 is -CH=CH- or $-(CH_2)_2$; provided R_1 or R_2 is H; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein the cancer cell is located in the central nervous system.

46.(NEW) A compound of the formula:



wherein

R_1, R_2, R_6 and R_7 are independently H, OH, or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkoxy; R_2 and R_3 together are $-OCH_2O-$; or R_6 and R_7 together are $-OCH_2O-$;

R_3 is OH, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkoxy, or R_2 and R_3 together are $-OCH_2O-$;

R_4 is H or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl;

R_5 is absent;

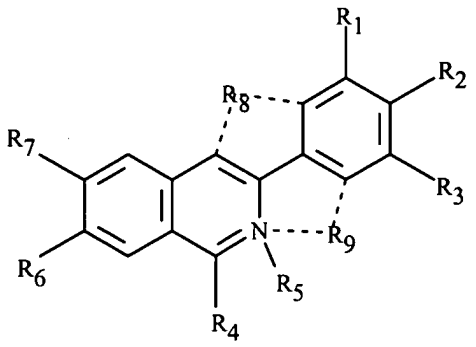
R_8 is absent; and

R_9 is -CH=CH- or $-(CH_2)_2$;

provided that R_1 or R_2 is H;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47.(NEW) A compound of the formula:



wherein

R_1 is H;

R_2, R_3, R_6 and R_7 are independently H, OH, or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkoxy; R_2 and R_3 together are $-OCH_2O-$; or R_6 and R_7 together are $-OCH_2O-$;

R_4 is H or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl;

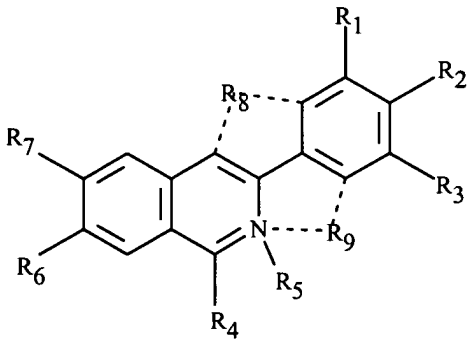
R_5 is absent;

R_8 is absent; and

R_9 is -CH=CH- or $-(CH_2)_2$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48.(NEW) A compound of the formula:



wherein

R_1, R_3, R_6 and R_7 are independently H, OH, or $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkoxy; or R_6 and R_7 together are $-OCH_2O-$;

R_2 is H;

R_4 is H or (C_1-C_8)alkyl;

R_5 is absent;

R_8 is absent; and

R_9 is -CH=CH- or -$(CH_2)_2$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

49.(NEW) A pharmaceutically acceptable salt comprising 8-methyl-3,4-methylenedioxy-10,11-dimethoxydibenzo[a,g]-quinolizinium and a pharmaceutically acceptable counterion.

50.(NEW) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the salt of claim 49; in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

51.(NEW) A therapeutic method to inhibit cancer cell growth comprising administering to a mammal inflicted with cancer an effective amount of the salt of claim 49.

52.(NEW) The method of claim 22 wherein the cancer is leukemia or melanoma.

53.(NEW) The method of claim 22 wherein the cancer is a solid tumor.

54.(NEW) The method of claim 22 wherein the cancer is a breast, lung, colon, or ovarian tumor.

55.(NEW) A pharmaceutically acceptable salt comprising 8-methyl-3,4-methylenedioxy-10,11-dimethoxydibenzo[a,g]-quinolizinium; 5,6-dihydro-8-methyl-3,4-methylenedioxy-10,11-dimethoxydibenzo[a,g]quinolizinium; 5,6-dihydro-3,4-methylenedioxy-10,11-dimethoxydibenzo[a,g]quinolizinium; or 3,4-methylenedioxy-10,11-dimethoxy-dibenzo[a,g]quinolizinium; and a pharmaceutically acceptable counterion.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 23-33 have been canceled; the Examiner withdrew claims 6-9, 18-21, 36-37, and 40-44 from further consideration; claims 10, 22 and 34 have been amended; and